

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 01782 050313Z

65

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01

LAB-04 DHA-02 /063 W

----- 056268

R 040704Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1839

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 1782

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ORIT, ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: CBCP SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING IN BAGUIO

BEGIN SUMMARY: SEMI-ANNUAL CBCP MEETING ACTED ON FIVE MAIN ITEMS, INCLUDING HOT ISSUE OF DIVORCE AND NEED FOR DUE PROCESS OF LAW IN CONNECTION DETENTION OR DEPORTATION PRIESTS. ARCHBISHOP SIN HAS ALREADY TAKEN UNEQUIVOCAL STAND AGAINST DRAFT DECREE WHICH WOULD LEGALIZE DIVORCE. WITH RESPECT EARLIER DEPORTATION TWO ITALIAN PRIESTS, CBCP HAS PROMISED THOROUGH INVESTIGATION PRIESTS' EXPULSION. IN MEANTIME, GOP NOT LIKELY LOOK OTHER WAY IF RADICAL RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS PERSIST IN WHAT REGIME PERCEIVES BE "SUBVERSIVE" ACTIVITIES (ILLEGAL STRIKES, DEMONSTRATIONS, ETC.). END SUMMARY.

1. CBCP (CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES) HELD ITS SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING AT BAGUIO JANUARY 26 - 31, 1976. CATHOLIC HIERARCHY ACTED ON FIVE MAIN ITEMS AS INDICATED BELOW: A) DECIDED ON OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING CHURCH DOCTRINE ON DIVORCE, TO BE ISSUED FEBRUARY 4; B) REAFFIRMED VITAL IMPORTANCE OF APOSTOLATE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION; C) STRESSED GREATER PARTICIPATION OF CATHOLIC LAYMEN IN MINISTRY OF CHURCH; D) APPROVED PENSION SYSTEM FOR RETIRED PRIESTS AND MEMBERS SECULAR RELIGIOUS GROUPS COMMENCING JANUARY 1976; AND E) CREATED SPECIAL PANEL WITHIN CMCL (CHURCH-MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE) FRAMEWORK TO MONITOR

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 01782 050313Z

COMPLIANCE WITH DUE PROCESS OF LAW IN CONNECTION ARREST,

DETENTION, OR DEPORTATION OF PRIESTS AND LAY LEADERS.
IN CONNECTION LAST POINT, CBCP FURTHER NOTED THAT WHILE
LAW SHOULD APPLY TO GUILTY WHETHER CITIZEN OR FOREIGNER,
BASIC NEED FOR A HEARING MUST BE OBSERVED BY AUTHORITIES.

2. CATHOLIC LAY LEADER WHO ATTENDED MEETING AND IS VERY
CLOSE TO MANILA ARCHBISHOP SIN, COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS TO
LABATT FEBRUARY 2. BIG ISSUE HAD BEEN STAND TO BE TAKEN
ON DIVORCE. ALTHOUGH ALL THE BISHOPS WERE NATURALLY
AGAINST IT, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE OPINION AS
TO DEGREE FIRMNESS TO BE EXPRESSED IN OFFICIAL STATEMENT.
SOME OF MORE "FEARFUL SOULS" HAD EVEN SUGGESTED (UNSUC-
CESSFULLY) THAT MARCOS BE SHOWN DRAFT STATEMENT BEFORE IT
WAS RELEASED -- AN "UNBELIEVABLE" SUGGESTION IN EYES
INFORMANT. ITEM FIVE STEMMED FROM RECENT DEPORTATION TWO
P.I.M.E. ITALIAN PRIESTS (SEE MANILA 1297), AND WAS MEANT
ENCOMPASS BROAD FIELD OF DETENTION, PROHIBITION "FOREIGN
MEDDLING" IN TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES (P.D. 823 AS AMENDED),

3. ELABORATING ON MATTER TWO DEPORTED ITALIAN PRIESTS,
OUR SOURCE FROM ARCHDIOCESE OF MANILA SAID BISHOPS HAD
DECIDED NOT ISSUE STATEMENT ON MATTER. IN WAY BACKGROUND,
HE NOTED GOP SIX MONTHS AGO HAD COME TO ARCHBISHOP SIN
TO INFORM HIM THE ITALIAN PRIESTS WERE INVOLVED IN "SUB-
VERSIVE ACTIVITIES." SIN HAD FORTHWITH CALLED PRIESTS
IN AND TOLD THEM TO GO EASY, BUT THEY HAD CHOSEN NOT LET
UP. SIN HAD SUBSEQUENTLY SUGGESTED TO P.I.M.E. SUPERIOR
GENERAL (WHO WAS VISITING PHILIPPINES AT THE TIME) THAT
IT MIGHT BE WISE TRANSFER THEM OUT, BUT WHEN APPROACHED
THE TWO HAD REFUSED. AS LATE AS DAY BEFORE ACTUAL DEPOR-
TATION (WHICH OCCURRED JANUARY 24), SIN HAD AGAIN WARNED
THE ITALIAN PAIR, BUT THEY HAD IGNORED EFFORT. IN A
FINAL REMARK, OUR SOURCE CONFIDED THAT HARRASSED P.I.M.E.
SUPERIOR GENERAL (BISHOP ARISTIDE PIROVANO) HAD ACTUALLY
BEEN "VERY HAPPY" HIS TROUBLESOME CHARGES NOW OUT OF COUNTRY.

4. COMMENT: ARCHBISHOP SIN HAS ALREADY PUBLICLY TAKEN
UNEQUIVOCAL STAND AGAINST DRAFT DECREE WHICH WOULD PERMIT
DIVORCE. HE HAS APPEALED TO MARTIAL LAW REGIME TO WORK
WITH CHURCH TO PREVENT LEGALIZATION DIVORCE AND AVOID
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 01782 050313Z

DIVISION IN PREDOMINANTLY ROMAN CATHOLIC PHILIPPINES.
THIS REMAINS HOT ISSUE HERE.

5. WITH RESPECT DEPORTATION TWO ITALIANS, AMRSP (ASSOCIA-
TION MAJOR RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS) CHAIRMAN FR. LOPE CASTILLO
TOLD LABATT FEBURARY 3 THEY HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM
CBCP (SIGNED BY CARDINAL ROSALES, CBCP CHAIRMAN) PRO-
MISING THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF PRIESTS' EXPULSION. IN

MEANTIME, FROM WHAT EMBASSY HAS HEARD FROM VARIOUS RELIGIOUS SOURCES, MATTER WILL ASSUREDLY BE RAISED AT NEXT CMLC MEETING SCHEDULED FEBURARY 6. GOP NOT LIKELY LOOK OTHER WAY, HOWEVER, IF RADICAL RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS PERSIST IN WHAT REGIME PERCEIVES BE "SUBVERSIVE" ACTIVITIES (ILLEGAL STRIKES, DEMONSTATIONS, ETC.). FOR EXAMPLE, SECDEF PONCE ENRILE ON JANUARY 31 ACCUSED COMMUNIST ELEMENTS OF TRYING TO FORGE ALLIANCE AMONG STUDENTS, INTELLECTUALS, LABORERS, SQUATTERS AND CHURCH WORKERS TO CAUSE UNREST IN PHILIPPINES. HE WARNED "WE ARE DETERMINED NEVER TO ALLOW ANY SECTOR OF OUR SOCIETY TO DESTROY PROGRESS SO FAR ACHIEVED IN SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION OF NATION". STATEMENT CAME ON HEELS WAVE OF ARRESTS REPORTED EARLIER.

SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, MEETINGS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, DIVORCES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA01782
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760043-0372
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760283/aaaacvig.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CBCP SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING IN BAGUIO BEGIN SUMMARY: SEMI-ANNUAL CBCP MEETING ACTED ON FIVE MAIN
TAGS: ELAB, RP, ORIT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006